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Letter dated 8 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached herewith a summary of the statement by the Government of the Republic of Yemen on the recent developments on the island of Socotra (see annex).

I would greatly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Khaled H. **Alyemany**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Summary of the statement by the Government of the Republic of Yemen on the recent developments on the Yemeni island of Socotra

5 May 2018

The Government of the Republic of Yemen considers the recent military deployment by the United Arab Emirates of troops and armoured vehicles, including tanks, to the Yemeni island of Socotra on 30 April 2018 as an unjustified military action.

These Emirati-deployed forces took control of both the island's airport and seaport and informed the local authorities, including Yemeni customs, security and intelligence officers, that they were dismissed until further notice.

The Government of Yemen stresses that this development is a reflection of the state of disagreement between the Yemeni Government and the United Arab Emirates, the essence of which is the misunderstanding over national sovereignty and the party entitled to exercise it, as well as the absence of a solid level of joint coordination, which seemed to have vanished recently.

The Government of Yemen received, on 4 May 2018, a high-level military delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to go over the recent developments on the island. The delegation met with the Prime Minister, the Governor of Socotra, the directors of the Political Security Organization and the National Security Agency, the Minister of Fisheries and others. The Prime Minister informed the Saudi delegation of the recent developments that caused concerns and stressed the importance of cooperation between the parties in the Arab coalition and that the seizure of the airport and the seaport of Socotra does not fall within the parameters of such cooperation.

The Prime Minister informed the Saudi delegation and the representative of the United Arab Emirates that the Yemeni Government is keen on maintaining strong brotherly relations to strengthen the Arab coalition and provide a degree of stability, continuity and cooperation between the Government and the United Arab Emirates.

The Prime Minister stressed further that the continuation of the misunderstanding and its spread over all the liberated governorates, including the island of Socotra, is clearly damaging and can no longer be concealed, and that its impact has spread to all military and civilian institutions and negatively impacted local public opinion.

The Government appreciates the keenness of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and his Crown Prince, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to resolve the issue and further enhance the relations between the parties of the Arab coalition.